

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6225

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 33151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR CA

SUBJECT: FRENCH-CANADIAN RELATIONS: UPS AND DOWNS

SUMMARY: WHEN GISCARD D'ESTAING BECAME PRESIDENT OF FRANCE IN MAY 1974, IT WAS EXPECTED THAT FRANCO-CANADIAN RELATIONS WOULD BECOME WARMER THAN UNDER DEGAULLE AND POMPIDOU. AS A PRAGMATIST, GISCARD WAS EXPECTED TO DE-EMPHASIZE QUEBEC AND STRESS RELATIONS WITH OTTAWA. IN EFFECT, THIS IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED, BUT A NUMBER OF IRRITANTS HAVE MAINTAINED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TENSION IN THE PARIS-OTTAWA RELATIONSHIP. THESE IRRITANTS INCLUDE CANADA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EC-9, TRUDEAU'S PROPOSAL FOR REGULAR NATO SUMMITS, CANADA'S NON-INVITATION TO THE RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT, CANADA'S ALLEGED AGGRESSIVENESS IN THE ASSOCIATION OF FRANCOPHONE STATES' AND FRANCO-CANADIAN DIFFERENCES OVER NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS ARRANGEMENTS. IN ADDITION, THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GISCARD AND TRUDEAU HAS APPARENTLY NOT CLICKED. END  
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SUMMARY.

1. THE NEW LOOK IN FRANCO-CANADIAN RELATIONS UNDER GISCARD WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SYMBOLIZED BY THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU IN OCTOBER 1974. THE WARMTH OF THE RECEPTION, AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT TRUDEAU WAS INVITED EARLIER THAN THE QUEBEC PRIME MINISTER, WERE DULY NOTED AS REPRESENTING THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PARIS AND OTTAWA. BUT SUBSTANTIVELY, TRUEAU'S VISIT WAS SOMEWHAT DISSAPPOINTING. ALONG AMONG THE EC-9, FRANCE HELD OUT AGAINST A CONTRACUTAL LINK BETWEEN CANADA AND THE EUROPEAN, COMMUNITY. ON THEIR SIDE, THE FRENCH WERE DISSAPPOINTED AT TRUDEAU'S COOL REACTION TO THE IDEA OF A FRENCH-QUEBEC JOINT VENTURE FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT CONNECTED TO THE JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC SCHEME. THE GOF HAS SINCE LIFTED ITS VETO AGAINST A CANADIAN/EC-9 CONTRACTUAL LINK, BUT CANADIAN EMBASSY PEOPLE HERE TELL US THAT THE FRENCH ACQUIESCERCE IS SO FULL OF CAVEATS AS TO MAKE THE NEGOTIATIONS VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS. THE GOF IS PARTICULARLY ADAMANT, ACCORDING TO THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, THAT INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BE KEPT ON A BILATERAL BASIS, AND EXCLUDED FROM CANADIAN-EC COMMISSION ARRANGEMENTS.

2. AT THE NATO CHIEFS OF STATE AND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN APRIL 1975, TRUDEAU LAUNCHED HIS PROPOSAL TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE SUMMIT. THE PROPOSAL WAS GREETED AFFIRMATIVELY BY THE OTHERS EXCEPT FOR FRANCE, WHICH RESERVED COMMENT. ACCORDING TO GOF AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE, THE CANADIANS FEEL THE INSTITUTIONALIZED NATO SUMMIT IDEA IS EFFECTIVELY DEAD, AND THAT THE FRENCH ARE AT FAULT.

3. IN OCTOBER 1975, THE ASSOCIATION OF FRANCOPHONE STATES HELD ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN MAURITIUS. DURING THAT MEETING THE CANADIANS PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL FUND FOR TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE ASSOCIATION'S SECRETARIAT ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS. THE GOF TOOK UMBRAGE AT THIS BECAUSE VIRTUALLY ALL OF ITS AID AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

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IN THE FRANCOPHONE WORLD ARE BUDGETED ON A BILATERAL BASIS. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL FUND WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE CANADIANS PREDOMINANCE IN AN IMPORTANT MULTILATERAL EFFORT. THE CANADIAN INITIATIVE WAS DEFEATED, BUT THE FRENCH WERE LEFT WITH THE FEELING THAT OTTAWA WAS SEEKING TO PRE-EMPT FRANCE'S LEADERSHIP OF THE FRANCOPHONE GROUPING.

4. CANADA WAS NOT INVITED TO THE RAMBOUILLET ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN NOVEMBER AND MADE ITS DISPLEASURE WITH THE GOF DECISION QUITE CLEAR. TO TRY AND SOOTHE FEELINGS, GISCARD WROTE TWO LONG LETTERS TO TRUDEAU ON THE SUBJECT. THE FIRST EXPLAINED THAT CANADA WAS NOT INVITED ONLY TO KEEP THE OTHER EUROPEAN FROM INSISTING ON INVITATIONS. AFTER THE SUMMIT, GISCARD WROTE TRUDEAU A SECOND LETTER

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TELLING HIM WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MEETING IN EXTENSIVE DETAIL. FINALLY, THE FRENCH PROPOSED CANADA FOR THE CO-PRESIDENCY OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION TO COMPENSATE FOR RAMBOUILLET.

5. IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, CANADIAN EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THEIR FIRST PRIORITY IN 1975 WAS TO PERSUADE THE GOF TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING

ON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS CONTROLS. FRANCE HAS TAKEN SOME FORWARD STEPS, THESE SOURCES SAY, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO SATISFY OTTAWA, WHICH IS STILL TRAUMATIZED BY THE INDIAN BOMB.

6. IN SUMMATION, THE FRENCH AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS ARE COMMUNICATING, BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO SAY THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN PARIS AND OTTAWA HAVE IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY UNDER GISCARD. THE QUEBEC PROBLEM HAS OFFICIALLY BEEN REMOVED AS AN ISSUE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS.

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**Review Date:** 23 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, FR, CA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006